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Logbook of the U. S. Frigate "Constitution" (1815)

RELATES NEWS OF END OF WAR OF 1812

Best-beloved ship in the U. S. Navy, the Frigate "Constitution," or "Old Ironsides," as she is known, symbolizes the indomitable strength and spirit of the Navy and her fighting men. Launched in 1797, the "Constitution" is still afloat. She especially distinguished herself in the War of 1812. This original log, open at the entry of February 8, 1815, records the receipt of the news that the war had ended and the peace treaty been signed in Ghent in December 1814. Meanwhile, not knowing that peace had been made, the "Constitution" had been in several engagements and had captured some ships as prizes.

The Log states, in part: " - - - spoke and boarded the barque Julia under Hamburg colours from Cork bound to Lisben out 15 days, informed us that the news at Cork when they left was, that peace had been signed at Ghent between the British and American Commissioners. At meridian discovered a sail on the larboard bow, hauled up and made sail in chase."

Thus the "Constitution" heard unconfirmed reports of the war's end - - - and proceeded with its maritime activities.

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